

RIGHTS OF ADULT BIRTH SIBLINGS

Birth siblings have the right to send letters to the Virginia Department of Social Services to be included in the adoptee's adoption record. In cases where the adoptee was placed for adoption through an agency and that agency maintains a record, the sibling may also send letters for inclusion in the agency's record.

For adoptions **finalized on or after July 1, 1994, when the adult adoptee is twenty-one years of age or older**, the adult birth sibling may apply to the Virginia Department of Social Services for **identifying** information on the adoptee, such as his/her current name and address. Good cause must be shown for the release of this information. Good cause means consent of the adult adoptee for release of the **identifying** information.

The adult birth sibling has the right to request that an attempt be made by the agency initially involved in the adoption, to convey critical medical, psychological and genetic information to the adult adoptee or adoptive parent(s). However, a physician or licensed mental health provider must certify in writing, with a clear explanation as to the reasons, that it is critical that the information be conveyed. Confidentiality of all parties is to be maintained by the agency.